

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

Volume 41, Issue 11

December, 2021

FROM THE PASTOR

Waiting is not a favorite pastime. These past weeks, I've heard the phrases, "hurry up and wait", "waiting is my least favorite thing to do", and "waiting, waiting, waiting, it seems like that is all people want me to do these days". I loved the time I went to Disneyworld and they had created spaces of waiting that allowed for you to look at pictures and learn of how the adventure park had been developed while waiting for the ride you had heard about for many years. Or when I go to a large gathering and people have made a plan that allows for the least waiting time possible. It makes me feel like the elimination of waiting might even be a possibility in life. Wouldn't that be a great Christmas gift?

In the devotional book *Bread for the Journey* by Henri Nouwen, these past few days in November, I am thankful for the words that are helping me to prepare to enter into the time of waiting in the church year. Advent comes upon us every year and it is a time of waiting. Waiting for Christmas, waiting for the Christ Child, waiting for a church to respond to God's incarnation of life, peace and justice for us.

In this devotional book, there have been three days dedicated to the focus on waiting. Thoughts of Active Waiting, Waiting with Patience, and Waiting in Expectation, share a call to ponder what these four weeks can be about for us. Nouwen believes that a time of waiting is "essential

to the spiritual life." He points out that this is not an "empty waiting", but a waiting that entails that we indeed understand what it is that we are waiting for in hope to come. The presence of Immanuel – God with us.

Nouwen's words can help us to see that Advent is not the only time we as followers of Christ wait. We wait in Lent as we journey with Jesus to the Cross. We wait from Good Friday to Easter and the glorious resurrection. We wait following Easter, for the coming of the Holy Spirit, and after the Ascension for Jesus' coming to us again.

We wait patiently, active and alert, in preparation, so we can welcome God as God comes to us. A great line in the devotion to ponder is, "waiting patiently always means paying attention to what is happening right before our eyes." Living in this Advent moment means setting aside the fear, doubt and worry of what may or may not take place. Experiencing Christ near and expectant, about to do a new thing, for the sake of all living creatures.

How might this kind of waiting be a part of our Advent Season? How can we wait in an expectation that opens our whole selves to be surprised with the Advent of our Lord? And how can this waiting lead us and guide us to pay attention to God's presence, peace and path of the faith journey we walk in the world each and every day?

I hope the busyness of the season will not distract us from the importance of being a people that waits; actively, patiently and with great expectation. May we take the time, allowing for God's time to reveal God's self.

Sharing this time of joyful waiting with you
Pastor Shari Duminy



We want to thank you for the wonderful celebration of our retirement. Thank you for the many gifts, cards and kind words. We will always treasure our time at Kountze and all the wonderful people we have been privileged to know. You have been our friends. We are not moving this time ... just leaving.

Love,

Pastor Olaf and Marcia Roynesdal

We thank our God every time we remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of our prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. We are confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:3 –6

WORSHIP *with us...*

Worship Times

Holy Communion is offered weekly at all three weekend liturgies which use resources from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM; Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

The 9:00 AM liturgy is broadcast on Cox Cable Channel 13 and is also live-streamed on our website (www.kmlchurch.org). The Sunday bulletin is available on our website.

A brief, spoken Eucharist is offered on Wednesdays from 12:15 - 12:45 PM in the Rotunda.



Photo by Jake Madison

Worship with us on TV or via Internet Livestream



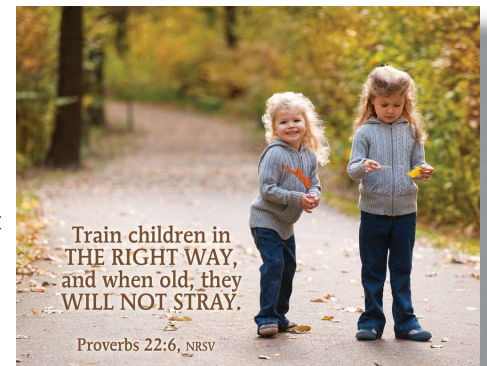
Our 9:00 AM worship service is broadcast live on television every Sunday on Cox Channel 13. You can also livestream the service right from your computer on our church

website. Go to www.kmlchurch.org and click on the Livestreaming link on the Worship Tab. We encourage you to worship with us via television or Internet as you are able.

Children in Worship

We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity

bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available. We also have a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.



Altar Flowers, Eternal Candle, TV Broadcast

You can help us beautify the altar at Kountze or sponsor a television broadcast if you wish. This is a simple and meaningful way to honor a loved one who has passed away, celebrate a special anniversary or milestone, or can be given in thanksgiving for friends or family. Their names will appear in the church bulletin on the weekend you select.

Altar Flowers are provided by Janousek Florist and cost \$20 a bouquet. The Eternal Candle is \$7.50. The television broadcast is \$210 per week.

You can sign up for a date to provide flowers, eternal candle, and/or our television broadcast by calling the church office and/or mail your check to the church and note what it is for, and who it is in honor, in memory, or in thanksgiving of.



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- The Magnificat presented by the ELCA Wittenberg Center
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GROW with us...

150th
NE
NEBRASKA SYNOD ELCA

As the Nebraska Synod, we are church – together. Synod means “walking together” and the synod is committed to that mission in their identity and work. The staff are called to

particular roles to connect and resource individuals and congregations in living out that mission. Those individuals and congregations, scattered across the state, are a community whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts, doing so much more together than any could do alone. 230 congregations with 90,000 members make up the Nebraska synod. There are many miles across our state and the staff travels to all areas.

The Synod is led by Bishop Brian Moss and the synod office is located inside an Immanuel Communities Building at 69th and the Sorensen Parkway. Four pastors are on the Bishop’s staff and each has relations with an area of the state. Pastor Juliet Focken is assigned to the Metro East congregations. There is a 4 member Discipleship Team. Also in the office are 3 office administrators, a finance person, an events and communications person and a PMA coordinator. The synod has a Substance Abuse Resource person, the Prison Ministry pastor, the Candidacy Coordinator, a Volunteer Archivist and the Serving Arms Coordinator. Next month we will learn more about the Serving Arms ministries.

Deacon Jean Johnson, Kountze Memorial’s Synod Liaison.

Mid-week Advent Services

The Days are Surely Coming.... will be our theme for Advent this year. We join with ELCA World Hunger in pondering scripture from Jeremiah and Luke. Our focus will be on the family of Zechariah, John the Baptist, and Elizabeth.

Join us for worship, following the Advent meals, at 12:15 PM for our Eucharist or at 6:30 PM for Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays December 1, 8, 15 & 22.

Advent

come grow with us!



Update

In light of Pr. Olaf’s retirement at the end of November, the Congregational Council has approved the formation of a Call Committee for the next Senior Pastor. The Call Committee will work in conjunction with the Synod office. According to our constitution and by-laws, the Committee is comprised of six voting members, one alternate voting member, and additional voice-only members as needed.

After speaking with the following individuals, I am pleased to announce the members of Kountze Memorial who have agreed to serve on the Call Committee:

Voting Call Committee Members:

1. Steve Urlaub
 2. Leon Valquier
 3. Dannika Rees
 4. Paul Revord
 5. Jean Johnson
 6. Bob (Pam) Johnson
- *Alternate: Mary Jo Fike

Voice-only Call Committee Members:

Ann Miller
Ashley Sum
Jane Kidder

I express my sincere thanks, on behalf of the Council and the whole congregation, to these members for their willingness to serve.

Other Updates: The Church Council and Pastor Olaf met with the Synod on Monday, November 15th in the evening for an exit interview. The Congregational Council and staff then spent time with Synod Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Juliet Focken, for information sharing about the whole call process and the possibility of welcoming an interim Senior Pastor to serve at Kountze Memorial.

Sincerely,

Mike Jensen
Vice Chair, Congregational Council
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church

SERVE with us...

Kountze Food Pantry



Our Pantry is participating in the Thrivent's Give Thanks and Give Back Food Shelf Challenge! Our job is to collect at least 500 individual containers of non-perishable foods from November 1-30, 2021. The food drive will be supplemented with a Generosity Multiplier Gift,

courtesy of the Thrivent Member Network-Nebraska Region. This means the Kountze Food Pantry will not only benefit from the food, we will receive a matching gift of \$500! If you bring your contributions in a reusable canvas shopping bag, we can pass these on to our walking pantry guests.

Thank you to all who brought hygiene products for our holiday gift bags. Your generosity, together with a very generous partnership with St. Michael Lutheran Church, will provide enough kits for 400 people!

Please note: Family Fare receipts must be complete in order to be counted. Partial receipts cannot be submitted.

Volunteers Needed:

Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM;
9:00 - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fridays, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

If you would like to help, please sign up to volunteer at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>

Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits

All of the health kits and quilts have now been shipped! We had 37 health kits and 231 quilts. Our circle's offerings collected \$285 for shipping so with the contributions from the congregation, we had well over \$500 collected for shipping.

Thanks to all who had a part in accomplishing this good work, assembling, sewing, packing, displaying, donating sheets, or even praying.... especially during Covid.

Chris Kendall



Advent Wreath Prayers

During worship in the first three weeks of December we will gather around the Advent Wreath with prayer and song. If you as a family, couple or single would like to light the candle and lead the prayer at one of the weekend services, please go to the following sign-up. We will make sure you have a copy of the prayer beforehand. Thanks for your consideration.



WE'RE BACKKKK!

Advent Lunches and Suppers in December

Please join us for Advent meals in December, there will be four meals this year. Bring your family, friends, neighbors or call your church friends and meet at Kountze for lunch or dinner. Maybe you met someone new at coffee and cookie hour, give them a call and invite them. The tentative menu(s) subject to minor changes follows:



December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22
Pulled pork sandwiches	Meatloaf	Peruvian baked chicken	Baked spaghetti w/ meat sauce or alfredo
Baked beans	Mashed potatoes (not out of a box)	Cilantro lime rice (plain rice available)	Garden salad
Coleslaw	Mixed steamed vegetables	Vegetable	Garlic bread
Apple crisp	Dinner roll w/butter	Roll with butter	Desert T.B.A.
	Desert T.B.A.	Desert T.B.A.	

All meals are free will offering and served with choice of coffee, water, or tea.

Lunch: 11:00 AM - Noon

Supper: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

KMLC Refugee Resettlement Task Force

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you”. John 15:12

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
Hebrews 13:1-2

As Christians we are called to love one another and welcome the stranger. How should we as a congregation respond to the needs of our new neighbors arriving as refugees in the coming weeks and months? As most of you know, Nebraska has committed to settling 775 Afghan evacuees in addition to the 700 refugees from other countries that were already expected to arrive in Omaha this next year. After having received several requests from interested people including members of the Global Mission Committee, Pastor Duminy organized a task force to discuss how we could follow Christ’s call to welcome the newcomers. After attending orientation training from Lutheran Family Services, nine members of the task force met to discuss the needs and our potential response.

It may be helpful to share some background information we received in our training. Omaha has two agencies who are authorized by the federal government to provide resettlement services: **Refugee Empowerment Center** and **Lutheran Family Services**. Both of these agencies operate under contract with the federal government to provide specific services to newly arriving refugee families. The agencies receive a fixed amount of federal funding per family member to assist them for the first 90 days. These funds must cover the cost of rent, utilities, food, and all furniture and household supplies. Families also receive resettlement support services such as language training and assistance finding work. After three months, refugee families are expected to have the jobs, knowledge, and language skills necessary to support themselves. In order to adequately meet the needs of the resettled families, Lutheran Family Services seeks donations and support from the community. Donations of furniture or groceries enables LFS to stretch the allocated federal funds farther to serve each family.

The KLMC Refugee Resettlement Task Force was formed to answer this call. We believe that our congregation has the resources to co-sponsor a newly arriving family. This means we would commit to providing all the household items and furniture required to set-up an apartment prior to the family’s arrival. The list below outlines the things we need donated. Our task force will coordinate the volunteers necessary to transport and store the items, as well as to physically set up the apartment prior to the family’s arrival. We will coordinate with Lutheran Family Services to let them know when we have assembled the required items. Within a few days, LFS will notify us of the address of the apartment, the number of people in the family and the date of their arrival. We will then have on average 3-4 days to set up the apartment.

Many of you may remember that Kountze sponsored a family from Kosovo in 1999. At that time Pam & Bob Johnson took the lead in not only setting up the apartment for the family but also served as mentors, meeting with them weekly to assist with their acculturation to living in Omaha. While this level of involvement can be very fulfilling for volunteers, it also is a significant commitment of time and energy. The task force will be seeking input from the congregation on whether or not we have the resources to provide mentoring for the family in addition to the apartment set-up.

Next steps: Prayerfully consider your own response to Christ’s call to love our neighbor. Do you have furniture, dishes, or other household items in good condition that you could donate? Do you have time or a vehicle to help transport items that others donate? Or does your welcome take the form of a monetary gift to buy groceries and toiletries for the family? The Alternative Gift program this year will include support for newly arriving refugees in Omaha. The Kountze Refugee Resettlement Task Force will be collecting volunteer names soon. As a congregation, we can welcome, restore dignity and bring hope to those forced to flee their homes.

Task Force members:

Pastor Duminy, Carl Ekstrom, Jerry Fischer, Jonna Holland, Gretchen Olson Kopp, Sasha Kopp, Mary Jane Petersen, Kay Wise, Ken Wise

Items Required for Apartment Set-up: See Page 10

Successful Coat Drive

Thank you so much for having a coat drive for us. We handed out 3,000 winter coats. One thousand of those coats were brand new kids coats. When you count the hats, gloves, scarves and socks we handed out over 10,000 winter items. It was a beautiful day. Thank you for being a part of the outreach to those in need in our community. We blessed a lot of people and are going to help keep kids warm this winter!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY...

Look What's Coming Up!

2022 Summer Youth Trip Registrations

ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

July 24 – July 31, 2022

Grades 8 – 12

Pondering a God Beyond Measure – *boundless* – is the theme for the 4-day National Youth Gathering that takes place in Minneapolis, MN from July 24- 28, 2022. *"I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is" – Ephesians 3:19 CEV.*

We will extend our trip through July 31 to explore and serve in the Twin City area while possibly staying in a cabin on one of their 10,000 lakes. All 8th – 12th Graders are encouraged to join our group in the journey. Your cost for the whole trip is \$500.00. Registration is due now with a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit. Please let Pastor Shari know your intention. Do not let finances keep you from signing up. January 5 is the last day to register for the Summer Youth Trip.



Youth Forum

Grades 7 - 12

Sundays, 10:10 AM

We continue to meet in the Youth room from 10:10 to 10:50 AM each Sunday Morning. All 7th – 12th graders are invited to attend this time as we gather together. The following is the schedule for December:

- Dec. 5 Serving in the World
- Dec. 12 Youth Gathering Bible Study – Living God's Boundless Forgiveness
- Dec. 19 Checking in and Christmas Gift Exchange (Wrap up a present of something you no longer need or want. We will play a game to pass them out.)
- Dec. 26 Christmas Break

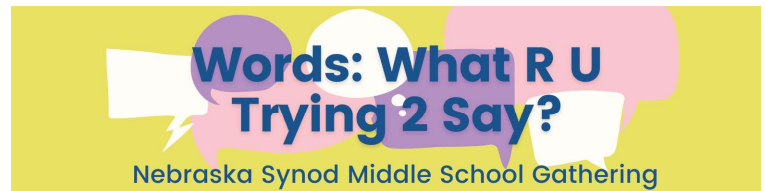
Confirmation Program

Confirmation gathers in December to join with the whole church community to experience Advent. We will meet from 5:30 – 7 PM on Wednesday evenings at Kountze for Advent Meal and Worship. We will help with serving the meal and assisting with worship.



- Wed. Dec. 1 Advent Meal and Worship
- Wed. Dec. 8 Advent Meal and Worship
- Wed. Dec. 15 Advent Meal and Worship
- Wed. Dec. 22 Advent Meal and Worship
- Wed. Dec. 29 NO CLASS – Christmas Break

2022 Synod Middle School Gathering



The annual Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering for young people in grades 6-8 and their adult leaders will take place at Carol Joy Holling Camp from 9 AM to 6 PM on Saturday, January 15. Participants will focus on communication—what Jesus communicates and how we communicate with our neighbors. The theme is "Words: What R U Trying 2 Say?" and our guiding verse is John 1:1.

To register for the MSG, registration form and \$20.00 fee is due to by December 5 to the Church Office. Information and forms can be found on the Youth Board in the Youth Room.

Children's Choir

9:20 AM

Ages K-6th Grade

Barb Carlsen will be leading the singers during the 9:00 AM sermon. Those interested in participating in choir will attend the first part of the 9:00 service with their families, come forward for the children's blessing, and then go to the upstairs choir room for practice before returning for Communion.



NEWS & Notes...



October 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Pastor Olaf.

The treasurer's report was presented with no questions.

Old Business: Formation of a call committee for senior pastor to include 6 members + 1 alternate: After discussion the following slate was approved: 1) Steve Urlaub 2) Leon Valquier 3) Mary Jo Fike 3a) Paul Revord (Congregation member, Saturday night service attendee if Mary Jo declines) 4) Bob Johnson 5) Richard Sieling 5a) Jean Johnson 6) Jane Kidder 6a) Dannika Rees 7) Ann Miller 8) Ashley Sum

New Business: Pastor Duminy is meeting with a group to find out how the congregation might help with resettlement of Afghan refugees. The synod exit interview for Pastor Olaf will be held Monday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m. Council Members will attend. The council approved the scholarship applications of Adam Klinker and Giselle Loucks at Wartburg Seminary.

The council voted unanimously to ask the Endowment to approve the grant applications of the Healing Gift Free Clinic, Kountze Pantry, and the Media Committee. The remainder of the agenda was tabled until the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned to enjoy a dinner honoring Pastor Olaf on his retirement.

Book Group

The Book Group will not meet in December. Please join us again in January.

Special Announcement from Bishop Brian Maas

Bishop Maas Retirement "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven"

- Ecclesiastes 3:1



Dear Saints of the Nebraska Synod:

In this season of giving thanks and this time of reflecting on blessings, I am writing to you with a profound sense of gratitude for the ways in which I am blessed by all of you. It is a privilege to serve as your bishop, and a gift to get to see you in action as Christ's church. Yet there is indeed a season and a time for everything; for beginnings and for endings. I am writing to share with you that one such ending is coming. I will be ending my term as bishop early, on August 31, 2022.

For the full letter, go to:

<https://nebraskasynod.org/news/special-announcement-from-bishop-brian-maas/>



Our Dear Kountze Church Family:

Thank you for your loving support, kind and comforting words during this difficult time. We gratefully appreciate the cards, phone calls, and kind expressions. There are no words to describe our gratitude for your heartfelt sympathies and will always be remembered by

the family of Anantharaj.

With much gratitude: Pastor Inba & Family

Purchase a Poinsettia for the Altar

Place your order by Sunday, December 12

We are now taking orders for poinsettias to beautify the church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Giving a Christmas poinsettia is a special way to honor or remember loved ones. The cost of the poinsettias is \$10.00 each. You may also simply give a gift of love to honor someone special. If you would like to order a poinsettia, please fill out the form in your weekly bulletin and either mail it to the church office with your payment or drop it in the offering plate during Worship. You may also pay online and note if it is in honor/memory/etc.

Poinsettias are available for pickup after the 11:00 PM Service on Christmas Eve or after the 10:00 AM Worship Service on Christmas Day.

Year End Giving

The church office will be closed on December 31 in observance of New Years Day. All financial gifts to Kountze Memorial should be in by Thursday, December 30, 2021 or postmarked no later than December 31, 2021.

Kountze History from the



Organists: Bev McCollum and Mark Jones

Joy to the World



You may remember that our Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ was completely restored in 2015. The organ was originally purchased in 1950 in memory of the men and women who served in World War II. When it was restored in 2015, it was rededicated in memory of all who have protected our country while in the military. Thanks to this restoration, this magnificent instrument allows us to sing joyfully at Christmas and all the rest of the year, too!

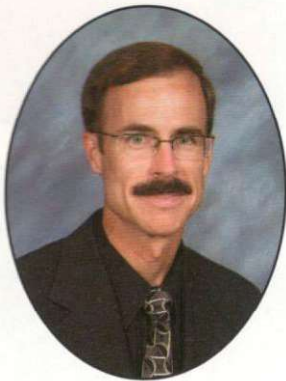
The instrument is a treasure, but it needs an organist to make beautiful music. Research shows that there have been ten different organists at Kountze Memorial since 1921. While continuing research of the years before 1921 will add to the list of organists at Kountze, it is interesting to note that the longest serving organists over the past 100 years are:

- Albert Sand 1921-1938 (17 years)
- Flora Sears Nelson 1938-1951 (13 years)
- Enid Lindborg 1951-1966 (15 years)
- Marilyn Walker 1966-1968 and 1971-1981 (12 years)
- Bev McCollum 1981-1991 and 1999-2002 (13 years)
- Mark Jones 2002 to present. (19 years)

You can see that some of these musicians served at two different times! All of them allowed us to enjoy the sounds of our pipe organ and the ways it can help us raise our voices in worship. The organists were also accompanists for our choirs.

It is interesting that Bev and Mark have had multiple positions. While serving as organist, Bev McCollum started the Kountze Memorial Bell Choir. She directed the bell choir during both terms of service. Bev also was employed by Omaha Public Schools as a vocal music teacher during the time of her employment at Kountze.

Our present organist, Mark Jones, has been our organist the longest. Mark has also been a member of our choir, interim choir director in 1994 and interim organist during searches for other organists. Mark is also the Director of Instrumental Music for Fort Calhoun Community Schools where he has taught for many years.



MARK JONES
ORGANIST



Beverlee McCollum
Organist

Kountze Commons Mortgage Update

Loan Balance, 10/1/2021.....	\$2,319,852.26
Principal Payment 11/1/2021.....	\$5,836.07
Interest Payment 11/1/2021.....	\$7,634.86
Balance 11/1/2021	\$2,314,016.19

Finances: October, 2021

	October	Year-to-Date
Total General Fund		
Income:	\$ 62,752.28	\$ 720,299
Expenses:		
Mission Support	\$ -	\$ 21,000
Christian Education:	\$ 962	\$ 2,855
Facility Costs:	\$ 6,745	\$ 115,791
Staff Compensation:	\$ 55,489	\$ 562,740
Worship & Music:	\$ 856	\$ 13,120
Parish Life:	\$ 584	\$ 3,625
Youth:	\$ 82	\$ 4,599
Office & Administration:	\$ 4,811	\$ 55,758
Total Expenses:	\$ 69,528	\$ 779,488

Food Pantry Report

(1/1/2021 - 10/31/2021)

Balance, 1/1/2021 \$ 50,000.00

Income:

Donations:	\$ 72,006.31
Memorials	\$ 1,045.00
	\$ 73,051.31

Expenses:

Aldi	\$ -
Costco	\$ -
Hidden Valley Ind.	\$ -
Family Fare	\$ 8,053.54
Food Bank	\$ -
Other	\$ 3,498.78
	\$ 11,552.32

Balance \$ 111,498.99

The Food Pantry relies on your financial donations! Please be alert to the weekly needs of this important ministry!

Pastoral Acts

(October 16 - November 15)

Baptisms:

Cole Thomas Clanton, October 30, 2021
 Ellowyn Rose Hansen, November 13, 2021
 Madeline Leona Kreiser, November 14, 2021
 Adrian Jean Barnes, November 14, 2021

Funerals:

Patricia L. Elson, November 4, 2021
 Robert E. Ringo, November 5, 2021

First Communion: October 31, 2021

Madelyn Aubry
 Vance Aubry
 Ryce Lee Brown
 Harlow Elise Burton
 Daylan Fleming
 Ryelle Fleming
 Andrew Caleb Hansen
 Wayne Eugene Hardesty
 Thomas Jensen
 Bernadette Alston Jones
 Matilda Vivian Jones
 Rilynn Krueger
 Mila Ann Reilly
 Zane Straney
 Wyatt Wemhoff

SECOND Annual Men's Chili Cookoff

A good time was had by all at the Men's Chili Cookoff!
 The winners were:

First Place: Jerry Fischer
 Second Place: Dick Sieling
 Third Place: Mike Jensen



And the winners are...



Chefs and Judges

KMLC Refugee Resettlement Task Force, continued

Items required for refugee apartment set-up:

Please note: LFS cannot accept donations of used clothing or beds at this time.

Bathrooms

Toilet Paper
Shampoo
Soap
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Feminine Supplies
Bathroom/Kitchen Cleaner
Men's and Women's Razors

Living & Dining Rooms

Couch
Living Room Chair
Coffee Table
Side Table
Lamp
Dining Table w/Chairs

Kitchens

Silverware Set
Dish Set
Mixing/Serving Bowl Set
Kitchen Utensil Set
Can Opener
Dish Soap

Bedrooms

Dresser/Clothing Storage
Alarm Clock

New - In Original Packaging Only

Bath Towels
Shower Curtain
Pillow
Sheet/Bedding Set

Miscellaneous Items

Laundry Detergent
Sponge
Cleaning Rag/Paper Towels
Waste Basket
Trash Bags
Mops/Brooms
Diapers/Wipes
Other Baby Supplies
First Aid Kit
Paper & Pen Set
Phone w/1 Month Service
Slow Cooker

It's Not Goodbye; It's See You Later: A Farewell to Executive Director Taylor Brown



Please join the Board of Directors and Staff of Kountze Commons in thanking Taylor Brown for her years of dedicated service to Kountze Commons and to the people our integrated care community serves.

Taylor Brown, Executive Director of Kountze Commons, announced that after two years of service to the organization she is resigning to pursue new opportunities.

Brown is an Omaha native and graduate of the University of Nebraska Lincoln. She worked at Nebraska Methodist College and Lutheran Family Services prior to bringing her fundraising and direct service experience to Kountze Commons. Immediately after becoming Executive Director of Kountze Commons, the COVID-19 pandemic struck globally, hitting hard many community members in Omaha with devastating effects on their health and well-being. Together, Brown and the four formal partners of Kountze Commons – Methodist Community Health Clinic, the Del and Lou Ann Weber Healing Gift Free Clinic, the Kountze Food Pantry, and Lutheran Family Services behavioral health – harnessed their synergies to establish programmatic and fundraising goals to meet the needs of the community during the pandemic. Over the course of her tenure as Executive Director, Brown spearheaded numerous efforts on behalf of Kountze Commons to provide critical and essential primary care, behavioral health care, and food pantry services to community members who needed them most. Additionally, Brown and Kountze Commons have been a valued partner to numerous organizations in the city to ensure the health and safety of Omaha's most vulnerable populations. "I've spent nearly two years in my role as Executive Director of Kountze Commons. Over the course of those years, I've worked with numerous extraordinary, caring, and dedicated individuals who all believe in our community and a stronger future for our city. It's been the joy of a lifetime to see Kountze Commons evolve, and its future potential is limitless," says Brown.

Starting in November 2021, Brown will be taking a new position as the Philanthropy Director of MICA House. She will utilize her skills to shepherd further integration of support and emergency shelter services, all with the ultimate goal to carry out MICA House's vision "to end homelessness by restoring hope to individuals and families while preserving family unity; empowering all to live independently and free from the crisis of homelessness through community support and collaboration." "We are appreciative of the service and dedication Taylor has given to Kountze Commons over the years. We wish her much success with MICA House; she is an asset to any team," says Paul Sum, Board President of Kountze Endowment True Vision, the entity who manages the Kountze Commons vision. "The Kountze Commons staff and Board will boldly continue moving forward to carry out Kountze Commons' important mission to Feed the Hungry, Heal the Sick, and Tend the Soul."



Alternative Gifts, 2021

Alternative Gifts have been a tradition at Kountze for 17 years, carrying out God’s love to the world with over \$175,000 in donations. Not only does Alternative Gifts feed the hungry and heal the sick, this program also helps us to give gifts that avoid materialism and honor the true meaning of Christmas. Alternative Gifts will be available in Advent, and since our congregation is worshipping together BOTH in person and remotely, the Global Mission Committee will provide TWO methods to purchase Alternative Gifts. For those of us worshipping in person, we will have a table set up in Fellowship Hall during forum for you to make your purchases. As we did last year, we will also accept Alternative Gift purchases through the mail. However, as we did last year, we need to simplify the number of choices available to ensure everything runs smoothly. This year, in addition to the options of the Kountze Pantry and the Weber Free Healing Clinic, we will also offer the option to support KMLC Refugee Resettlement. Together these ministries clearly represent our mission at

Kountze, “a city-wide church with a world-wide ministry.” For those of you who still want to donate towards goats and chicks and other causes, you may do so directly through the ELCA at their website: <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

The Alternative Gift table will be available in Fellowship Hall from 10-11:00am on Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 & 19. Or, if you prefer, you may use the following procedure:

1. Complete the Alternative Gift Wish List
2. Write your check to Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
3. Mail your list and your check to
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131
4. We will process the wish lists each week and mail you the cards and inserts for you to share as gifts.

If you have questions about this, please call or email Jonna Holland, 402-669-4575 or jholland@unomaha.edu

Alternative Gift Wish List 2021

	Price	Quantity	Total
Kountze Pantry			
Provide one bag of food for a family in Omaha	\$15	_____	\$ _____
Provide two bags of food for a family in Omaha	\$25	_____	\$ _____
Provide a week’s groceries for a family in Omaha	\$50	_____	\$ _____
Kountze Free Clinic			
Provide supplies for the free Clinic	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Provide medicine for the free Clinic	\$25	_____	\$ _____
Support for Refugee Resettlement Families in Omaha			
Provide dishes or pots and pans for a Refugee Family	\$20	_____	\$ _____
Provide sheets and towels for a Refugee family	\$50	_____	\$ _____
Contribute toward furniture for a Refugee family	\$100	_____	\$ _____
Total		_____	\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Do you want insert cards that describe your donation so you can offer it as a Christmas gift to someone?

Yes No, I just want to make the donation, no cards needed.

Calendar...



December 1 Wednesday

11:00 AM Advent Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Advent Dinner
6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

December 2 Thursday

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 3 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 4 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

December 5 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

December 6 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 7 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Sewing Group
11:00 AM Advent Lunch
11:00 AM Devotions @ deFreese Manor
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Advent Dinner
6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer

December 9 Thursday

9:30 AM WELCA Board
11:30 AM Property Committee
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

December 10 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 11 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

December 12 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-6th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 7-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum

December 13 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
7:00 PM Circle 3 - Kountze Commons Link

December 15 Wednesday

Good News Deadline
11:00 AM Advent Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Advent Dinner
6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer

December 16 Thursday

Council Reports Due
1:30 PM Circle 4 - Potluck
4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic
7:00 PM Circle 5

December 17 Friday

5:00 PM Pantry

December 18 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

December 19 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)
10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)
10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)
10:10 AM Adult Forum
10:30 AM Executive Committee

December 20 Monday

10:00 AM Pantry

December 21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group
6:00 PM Congregation Council

December 22 Wednesday

11:00 AM Advent Lunch
12:15 PM Worship
5:30 PM Advent Dinner
6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer

December 23 Thursday

OFFICE CLOSED (at noon)

December 24 Friday

Christmas Eve
OFFICE CLOSED
4:00 PM Worship
7:00 PM Worship
11:00 PM Worship
No Pantry

December 25 Saturday

Christmas Day
10:00 AM Worship

December 26 Sunday

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship
9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

December 27 Monday

OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 AM Pantry is open

December 28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

December 29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

December 31 Friday

New Year's Eve
OFFICE CLOSED
No Pantry

Church Access and Alarms

At this time, if you need to be able to get into the church building after office hours or on weekends outside of worship times, please talk with the church staff at least the day before you plan to be here so we are able to make sure doors can be opened and alarms will not sound which will in turn bring the police to attend your event...

We appreciate your assistance and patience.





1. Rebecca Anderson, Marlys Duin, Soren Johnson, Kim Neville, Ashley Sum
2. Dianne Bruckner, Kolbey Burns
3. Clay Cameron, Michele Eakins, Carol Gleason
4. Barbara Andersen
5. Gary ClatterbuckDale Broekemeier, Hailey Ingram, Inna Weedman, Alan Woster, James Marcum,
6. Brad Cochran, Dale Ervin, Aage Jensen, Nicholas Natvig
7. Arlene Hirsh, Delores Kocourek
8. Neil StierLowell Harms, Tara Strauss, Debra Woosley, Madison Duffield
9. Jan Bowder, Craig Hill, Tyler Johnston, Renee Osborn, Norman Sack, Scott Saxton, Jeffrey Watts
10. Sydney Kinish, ,
11. Robert Burt
12. Ted Horacek, Zachary Johnson, Scott Neill, David Roethemeyer, Edward Jenkins, Emma Ryder
13. Hal France, Donna Moessner, Sandra Lundholm
14. James Camenzind, Emily Drickey, John Georgeson, Madelyn Hinrichs, Susan Mollner, William Pemberton
15. Ronda Nelson, Jaya Winther
16. Gary Dietrich, Leigh Freeman, Gage Hansen
17. Dorothy Cross, Carla Ohm
18. Carly Headley, William Jacobsen, Craig Johnson, Benjamin Williams
19. Charles Campbell, William Christensen
20. Richard Fogleman, Eric Rees
21. Steven Hansen, Landon Putnam
22. Torin Edwards, Julianna Green, Erin Marek, Lindsay Neill, Suzanne Schueler, Beverly Troxel
23. Debra Kee, Debra Larsen, Corey Lynch, Jennifer Urlaub, Lynn McKeeman
24. Johnny Groenjes, Charles Martis
25. Kathe Andersen, Carson Ohm, Ashley Rusch, Randy Titus
26. Nancy Rodene, Gary Westerman, Holly Willert, Ingrid Furby, Lara McCormick
27. Emilio Arispe, Jonathan Fullner, Tanya Kosola, Colleen Sorensen, Roy Waterman, Zachary Zellmar
28. Kathryn Dean, Charles Misbach, Mark Oldaker, Elizabeth Portrey, Dorothy Stanzel, Leon Tuite, Joel Woosley
29. Shane Hallowell, Arthur Land, Linda Swartz
30. Monica Albers, Kara Di Lorenzo, Rodney Edwards, Benjamin Myers
31. Jeffrey Baker, Brianne Minturn, Linda Siffring, John Martin

Join us for Worship

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve 4:00, 7:00, & 11:00 PM

Saturday, December 25
Christmas Day 10:00 AM

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
2650 Farnam St
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
Phone: 402-341-7761
Fax: 402-341-4841
E-mail: info@kmlchurch.org
Web: www.kmlchurch.org

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Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
Shari Duminy, Associate Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

Worship Times

Saturday at 5:00 PM
Sunday at 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Wednesday at 12:15 PM

The 9:00 AM Sunday service is
televised live on Cox channel 13
and live streamed on our website
at [https://www.kmlchurch.org/
live-streaming/](https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/) (you may watch the
live-stream at anytime)

A bulletin is available on our
website at [https://www.kmlchurch.
org/bulletin-announcements/](https://www.kmlchurch.org/bulletin-announcements/)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The ELCA Wittenberg Center Presents: The Magnificat: Turning the World Upside Down

The ELCA Wittenberg Center invites you to a three-part webinar series to mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's commentary on the Magnificat and the continued significance of Mary's voice. Each hour-long session will take place at 12 PM Central time.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| December 15 | My Soul Magnifies the Lord:
The Gift of Mary's Voice
Speakers: The Rev. Dr. Wanda Deifelt & Pr. Heidi Neumark |
| December 16 | Brought Down the Mighty From Their Thrones:
The Strength of Mary's Voice
Speakers The Rev. Dr. Mary Lowe & the Rev. Angela Trejo Hagger |
| December 17 | From Generation to Generation:
The Future of Mary's Voice
Speakers: The Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin & The Rev. Dr. Mercedes Garcia Bachmann |

The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Moore (Director) and Kathy Moore, ELCA Missionaries

Register at <http://bit.ly/MagnificatWebinar>
A blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas from Wittenberg and Leipzig!